

Anthony Rodriguez, Ph.D.
70 Forest Avenue
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Chairman Marvin Abney
House Committee on Finance
Rhode Island State House
Room 35
82 Smith St.
Providence, RI 02903

3/23/2021

ATTN: Christopher O'Brien, Committee Clerk

AGAINST House Bill 5193 - Establishment of Charter Schools

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

My name is Anthony Rodriguez and I live in Cranston, RI. I am writing to express my **strong opposition to Representative O'Brien's bill, H-5193**, regarding charter schools. Using a broad bill such as this to limit access to many children who need high-leverage instruction is an equity issue. By broadly taking away the education of many children in Rhode Island you are siding with political ideology and not what is best for them.

I realize that the education system in Rhode Island needs substantive change, reorganization, and to be held to higher standards than are presently in place. I also realize that there are some schools that are not performing well and this is true on both sides of the charter school argument. What the state representatives need to do is to establish metrics, engage in data analysis, and use this research to inform policy and practice. This bill is clearly not an evidence-based practice and does nothing to improve our educational system. It looks very much like a veiled attempt to continue with status quo practices that have harmed children in our state.

These charter schools will help serve the children of Rhode Island. These charter schools will also help dismantle some of the legacy systems that need to be removed from our state. We need change and this could be the first step in the right direction. I would gladly make time to discuss the needed educational reforms much needed in our state that should be addressed going forward. Please contact me at any time.

Please oppose House Bill 5193 and let our children pursue the high-quality education they deserve.

Respectfully,

Anthony Rodriguez Ph.D.